

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Office of Administrative Law Judges,
Seattle
United States Coast Guard

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5720
June 27, 2019

SENT VIA E-MAIL TO: 56225-42873078@requests.muckrock.com

Emma Best
c/o MuckRock.com
DEPT MR 46990
411A Highland Ave.
Somerville, MD 01244

RE: DHS FOIA APPEAL 2018-HQAP-00294

Ms. Best:

This letter concerns your appeal of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request 2018-HQFO-01101. Pursuant to a memorandum of agreement, the United States Coast Guard Office of the Chief Administrative Law Judge is reviewing the FOIA appeals for the Department of Homeland Security General Counsel's office. Therefore, the Office of the Chief Administrative Law Judge will be rendering the official appeal decision on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security.

In November 2018, I remanded this request for additional processing within 30 days. You inquired about the status on May 28, 2019, however, as of today's date, I have not received any updates from the Agency regarding the remand. Because a reasonable amount of time has passed without further response, the Agency's lack of action must be viewed as final, giving you the right to pursue an appeal in the appropriate United States District Court.

This decision is the final action of DHS concerning your FOIA request 2018-HQFO-01101 and appeal 2018-HQAP-00294. You may seek judicial review of this decision pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) in United States District Court for either: (1) the district where you reside; (2) the district where the agency records are situated; or, (3) the District of Columbia.

Furthermore, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should

know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. If you wish to contact OGIS, you may email them at ogis@nara.gov or call 1-877-684-6448.

Sincerely,



Heather L. MacClintock
Attorney Advisor
United States Coast Guard

Copy : Angela Washington, Associate Director of Appeals and Litigation
Sent: Via e-mail to the above address